

Oakland House,
Victoria Road,
West Hartlepool.
1st June 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stockton Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1942 on the Public Health of that part of your district which comes under my care. This comprises the parishes of Brierton, Claxton, Dalton Piercy, Elwick, Elwick Hall, Hart, Seaton, and Greatham. On account of paper shortage, and other war time conditions, I have been asked to make rather an outline report.

As the Registrar General submits population figures for the complete area, vital statistics based on those numbers have already been detailed giving you a picture of your complete district. Consequently, in the matter of figures, I shall confine myself to making a few notes on the incidence of infectious disease.

Disease	Number Notified	Number sent to hospital
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-
Scarlet Fever	4	2
C.S. Meningitis	1	1
Erysipelas	2	-
Pneumonia	1	1
Diphtheria	3	3
Measles	11	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1
Tuberculosis (pulm.)	1	-
	<u>25</u>	<u>8</u>

There has been only one real epidemic - that of measles. The cases were all mild, and no deaths occurred. The scarlet fever cases were sporadic in incidence. It is to be noted that all the diphtheria cases were treated in hospital. This, I consider, is as it should be. The type of case we have been seeing recently has been serious, and naturally hospitalization is an additional safeguard. Fortunately we have had no fatal cases, and no case has occurred in a person protected by immunisation. In 1935 an immunisation campaign was carried out, and a more successful one was again run in 1941. We still provide facilities for free protection, and the County Health Visitors help in keeping the parents reminded of these opportunities. Only a single case of phthisis was notified. This is exceptionally good as the incidence in the neighbouring industrial districts is fairly high.

Fever Hospital Arrangements:- All fever cases are admitted to West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities are quite good. In addition to Infectious Disease ambulances, private conveyance is available, and we are now allowed to use the A.R.P. ambulance in cases of urgency for non-war accidents.

Water Supply:- The position of those areas which depended on a mains supply has been especially considered during the year with a view to the prevention of undue distress in the event of air-raid damage. A Water Warden was appointed and steps were taken to undertake the sterilization of well supplies. Later, however, storage tanks have been erected, and it appears that reasonable precautions have been taken against undue shortage.

Closet accommodation, Public cleansing, Camping sites, and eradication of bed bugs are dealt with in your Sanitary Inspector's report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. Mather

M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd.) D.P.H. (Cantab)
Medical Officer of Health.

Harland House,

Norton-on-Tees.

STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1942

The resident population given for the year 1942 was 7,036 in comparison to 7,200 in 1941.

BIRTHS:

The number of live births was 113 - 56 males and 57 females, while there was 1 male stillbirth. The Birth Rate was 16.2 per 1000 of population as compared with 14.2 in 1941 when there were 104 live births.

DEATHS:

We had 85 deaths - 39 male and 46 female, and on an estimated population of 7,036 this gives an annual death rate of 12.08, in comparison to the rate of 10.5 for 1941 when there were only 74 deaths. Of these deaths the largest incidence was from

Heart Disease, 7 male and 10 female

Other diseases of the circulatory system

4 males and 2 females

Intracranial vascular lesions, 4 males and 6 females.

INFANTILE DEATHS:

There were 5 deaths in children under 1 year of age giving an Infantile death rate of 43.1 per 1000 live births. This is good, compared even with last year when it was 48.07 per 1000 live births.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES:

103 cases have been notified, as compared with 211 in 1941, and this is mainly attributable to the fact that there were just over 100 cases less of Measles than last year.

The various notifications were:-

Scarlet fever 10

Diphtheria 17

Measles 35

Tuberculosis 7 (Pulmonary 2, Non-pulmonary 5)

Puerperal pyrexia 1.

Whooping cough 17

Erysipelas 4

Pneumonia 12

Deaths from Notifiable or Infectious diseases were:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2 males, 1 female.

Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis 1 female

Syphilitic disease 1 female

Influenza 2 males, 1 female.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS J. KIRK.

